Messy Grace **– wk 13 – That Does not Make Sense / The Covering**

**If you are a Christians have you ever been asked about a tough question in the bible that bring resistance to Jesus?**

**What are some of them? Today a very strange passage explained.**

**Welcome to Corinth - Written by Apostle Paul to a church he planted 5 yrs earlier, lived there1 ½ yrs. He knew the people well (Acts 18)**

**The original sin city - seaport city entertainment city. The mascot, sex goddess (Aphrodite - Venus) A messed-up church in a messed-up city learning to walk w/ God.**

**This letter is all over the map. Division, suing, incest, rampant sin, drunk at church events, immorality, misuse of spiritual gifts. Paul lovingly & truthfully addresses each issue w/ grace – no matter how messy it gets.**

**To get back full swing into 1 Corinthians here is an overview Chart: 1-4 deal with divisions / 5-7 deal with purity / 8-10 deal with food 11-14 Dealing with gatherings. All Paul’s the answers were – for the sake of the Gospel – put others before yourself.**

**1 Corinthians 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 2 I praise you for remembering me in everything and for holding to the traditions (ordinances – reference to the teachings of the apostles) just as I passed them on to you. (Paul is responding to diff issues he heard about and they wrote about.) 3 But (changes the topic to address a local issue) I want you to realize…**

**Paul begins a section about when we gather together.**

**He starts off with a weird one. It’s so difficult it will angers some, so I am going to skip it - JK.**

**Let’s read thru it first - 1 Cor 11:3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. (that alone is cause for pause) 4 Every man who prays or prophesies with his head covered dishonors his head. (hat off or you’ll go to hell) 5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head – it is the same as having her head shaved. (that is extreme) 6 For if a woman does not cover her head, she might as well have her hair cut off; (scissors are in the back) but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.**

**In attempt to follow the Bible we’re back to implement head coverings for women - Pass out head coverings…**

**You think that is hard to follow – wait till you hear this part - 7 A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. 8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. 10 It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority over her own head, because of the angels. (That is weird?) 11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as woman came from man, so also**

**man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. 13 Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? 14 Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, 15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. (used in Christian circles – bible college – to say men must have short hair – women long… both can grow it – who decides what is appropriate hair styles?) 16 If anyone wants to be contentious about this, we have no other practice—nor do the churches of God.**

**Surely it does not mean this… Head covering movement video -**

**And to add fuel to the fire - 1 Corinthians 14:34 Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the law says. 35 If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.**

**Possibly some of the most difficult to explain. An issue so big for some question if the bible can be trusted or is relevant today.**

**Only found here - What do you do with this?**

**1 thing to establish and 1 thing to understand:**

**\*\* The Bible is the measure and the final word**

**When you hit tough passages the first reaction must be - okay this is the authority on the matter. It can be trusted to not lead me astray.**

**I am not to conform the bible to my opinions and feelings – but my opinions to the Bibles perspective. This is God’s Word.**

**Don’t let your first reaction be – this is not true – but rather this is true, but what does it mean for me? Compare it to rest of Bible**

**\*\* The Bible must be read in context or it will confuse and repel people**

**When read through the eyes of the recipients the bible makes full sense and never contradicts itself. 2000 years over 5000 years.**

**The Bible deals with real situations in the context of real lives in diff cultures. The Roman empire was not a monolithic culture: customs varied from city to city / region to region.**

**Find the eternal principles that we can walk in.**

**When we read it through our eyes, we can be misled and in turn lead people astray (poor teaching) or repel people from Jesus.**

**Two views of this COVERING passage:**

* **A church custom – for all churches, a permanent application**
* **A culture custom – limited to their society, a temp application**

**I clearly see this as being a culture issue with a church principle**

**Women are instructed diff in other letters - We see women lead in other churches as teachers, evangelists, deacons, & prophets**

**Why here does he say they must be quite and cover their head?**

**A flow of thought – we can’t look at this passage alone**

**\* The previous 4 chaps were about accommodating others**

**so that they can know Jesus in the context of their culture.**

**\* The next 4 chaps are about chaos and disorder when they gather**

 **See the train of thought? How can we best represent Jesus to others**

**Let’s break this down… The Covering**

**1 Cor 11:3 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman (better - wife) is man, and the head of Christ is God. (Christ is fully equal to the Father with a willing submission to him – likewise women)**

**This verse is the foundation for what he is talking about.**

**1. The main point is not to have your head covered, but to be covered**

**Head = source (like a river head) This is an authority issue. There is a principle of spiritual covering for us all here.**

 **\*\* We are equal in Christ, but we are different in our design**

**1 Cor 7 - Paul says men and women are equal and that married couples belong equally to each other. / Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

**God created men & women equal, but very different (have you noticed?) We function best when we function in God’s design.**

 **\*\* We are equal in Christ, but we are different in our roles**

**Eph 5:21 submit one to another – 5:22 wives let your husbands lead you…**

**1 Cor 11:3 point – The head (spiritual leader) of the woman (wife) is man**

**This is equality in position & value – but distinct in role and function**

**Women are dynamic leaders! Some are in this room. This is the context of spiritual leadership roles – having a covering.**

**We all have a role to play. (Eph 5)**

 **\*\* Men are designed and given the role to lead - spiritually**

**Not about authority – but specifically spiritual authority**

**Men are to lead spiritually as Christ led w/ humility and sacrifice. (Eph 5)**

**When men don’t, God will many times raise up women for His purpose around the world. They are dynamic leaders.**

**Q - Are you under a spiritual covering? Both men and Women**

**4 Every man who prays or prophesies (preaches) with his head covered dishonors his head. (Corinth – men covering head in prayer was a disgrace & disrespectful)**

**2000 yrs later - we still see it in our customs – wearing a hat inside, at a table, or at a church. Easy – take it off or put it on.**

**5 But every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head (it dishonors her husband – her covering) - it is the same as having her head shaved. (in their culture – to shame women and to punish them, they shaved or cut their hair) 6 For if a woman does not cover her head, (to show she is under spiritual authority) she might as well have her hair cut off; (it is disgraceful) but if it is a disgrace for a woman to have her hair cut off or her head shaved, then she should cover her head.**

**PIC. Much like women in other countries today. Shows value. In Corinth - Wives covered heads in public & temples - uncovered in homes. Singles, prostitutes, promiscuous - did not (sign of availability) It was immodest - \*\*Ancent art depicts both.**

**When a wife uncovered her head, it was like taking off her wedding ring. You might see how this would show dishonor.**

**Paul is basically saying, “If a woman wants to pray, teach or give God’s Word in church, let her do so while showing respect for spiritual authority (using local customs) otherwise, let her remain silent.”**

**2. Spiritual gifts and leadership are for men and women (chap 12)**

**Men and women are free to express spiritual leadership, when they demonstrate that they are under spiritual leadership.**

**v.5 “But every woman who prays or prophesies”**

**The veil covering for women was a symbol in their custom of her being under the spiritual covering of her husband.**

**1 Cor 11:7 A man ought not to cover his head, (Greece showed feminine trait and a dominate personality) since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. (God created man in his image, then created woman – creation order) 8 For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; 9 neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. (created equal - diff by designs and diff in roles)**

**3. Spiritual authority is part of God’s original design.**

**Spiritual leadership roles are not a result of the fall of Adam / sin.**

**This is not a passage about women being inferior to men or submit to every man – this about husband and wife spiritual leadership.**

**Men are designed and given the role to bear the weight of the responsibility of spiritual leadership. This transcends culture.**

**Men step up – with sacrifice and humility – LEAD!**

**1 Cor 11:10 It is for this reason that a woman ought to have authority (spiritual authority) over her own head, (symbolized culturally by her covering) because of the angels. (God created spiritual beings working among us – know about their spiritual authority) 11 Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. 12 For as woman came from man, so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God. (equal to God)**

**Our differences actually tell us how much we need each other**

**Our roles are designed by God to complete areas we lack.**

**“I don’t need no man!” “I don’t need no women”**

**Yes, you do. We need each other! We are a team!**

**4. We are all to be under a spiritual authority (A covering)**

**In Corinth there was a “Covering” issue. Spiritual authority issue.**

**Everyone - men and women – to God first. To spiritual leaders in the local church (men as elders) (men & women as deacons). In a home and in the church.**

**13 Judge for yourselves: (what is your local decorum – in your community?) Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? (no) 14 Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, (Roman culture men had short hair - this is a reference to their society custom – we know this because we see diff customs in throughout the bible I.e. Samson and OT warriors) 15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering. (in your local custom this is the standard – living there, you should follow it) (a woman losing hair?)**

**“Judge for yourselves” This is not a divine command from God – they are to use their own judgement – figure it out.**

**5. Men look like men / women look like women according to custom**

**What does that mean for us? If you have long men / short hair women?**

**11:7 A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God**

**In Corinth it was feminine for a man to cover his head – but not in Jewish culture. When Paul is in Jerusalem – he would cover his head when they pray. It was their custom. Still today.**

**Realize what we see as normal for men, may not be normal in another culture. Earrings (men), hair (short or long), clothes (kilts, man dresses, colors), make up for men (Indian, African), our culture is changing. \*\* It all depends on was is the custom of your culture.**

**6. Sometimes customs are more important than freedoms**

**It is okay, acceptable, and expected to practice societal customs that do not conflict with scripture – to lead people to the gospel.**

**PIC – Global customs - what is customary there is not customary here (clothes, coverings, jewelry – men & women) But missionaries, to not be disrespectful – will often dress and accommodate the customs.**

**This echoes chapter 9 – what has said to them earlier - 1 Corinthians 9:19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. (Jewish people) 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. (Greeks and Romans) 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. (different convictions) I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.**

**Be in harmony with local customs of the day that do not conflict with scripture. Why? To build a bridge to Christ for the gospel’s sake. Love trumps freedom – we are to always put others first.**

**1 Cor 11 (Paul wraps up hair length and covering your head with…) 16 If anyone wants to be contentious about this, (argue about it – be legalistic about it) we have no other practice *(we have no such custom) -* nor do the churches of God.**

**Translated don’t argue about – all the churches do it this way. But we already know this was not for every church.**

**The proper way to see this verse is simply - don’t be legalistic about the literal head coverings. We, the apostles and the other churches, do not demand it.**

**7. The biggest point is – don’t be an obstacle for the gospel.**

**In an effort to share the gospel – accommodate the cultural norms that do not contradict scripture.**

**This is not about our salvation but the salvation of others**

**“I become all things to all men, as to reach some”**

**The main point is: Do whatever it takes (without sin) to help people see and know the love of Jesus – the good news.**

**Don’t create walls build bridge bridges.**

**1 thing to establish and 1 thing to understand:**

**\*\* The Bible is the measure and the final word**

**\*\* The Bible must be read in context or it will confuse and repel people**

**Getting drunk at church events**

**17 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it. 19 No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval. 20 So then, when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat, 21 for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk. 22 Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? Certainly not in this matter!**

**23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.**

**27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. 32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.**

**33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. 34 Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment.**

**And when I come I will give further directions.**

**1 Cor 15:27 For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. (this not saying Jesus is not God – but rather the eternal submission in his role. He is forever now a body – the image of the invisible God)**

**(this is in regard to not believing in our resurrection ) 33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 34 Come back to your senses as you ought and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.**